

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Canceled)

2. (New) A method for allowing a user to access interactive program guide features on a television monitor on which appears a first display, the method comprising:

receiving a menu input from the user through a remote control;

displaying, in response to the menu input, an interactive program guide menu simultaneously with at least a substantial portion of the first display, wherein the interactive program guide menu comprises a plurality of menu choices corresponding to a plurality of display modes of the interactive program guide; and

displaying, in response to receiving through the remote control a user selection of a particular menu choice from the plurality of menu choices, program guide information that is associated with the particular menu choice.

3. (New) The method of claim 2 wherein displaying an interactive program guide menu comprising a plurality of menu choices comprises displaying an interactive program guide menu comprising a menu choice corresponding to a program listings display mode.

4. (New) The method of claim 3 wherein displaying program guide information associated with the particular menu choice comprises displaying a plurality of interactive program listings in response to receiving a user selection of the menu choice corresponding to the program listings display mode.

5. (New) The method of claim 2 wherein displaying an interactive program guide menu comprising a plurality of menu choices comprises displaying an interactive program guide menu comprising a menu choice corresponding to a program search display mode.

6. (New) The method of claim 5 wherein displaying program guide information associated with the particular menu choice comprises displaying, in response to receiving a user selection of the menu choice corresponding to the program search display mode, an interactive program guide interface from which the user can initiate a restrictive search of a database of program schedule data.

7. (New) The method of claim 2 wherein displaying an interactive program guide menu comprising a plurality of menu choices comprises displaying an interactive program guide menu comprising a menu choice corresponding to a day to view display mode.

8. (New) The method of claim 7 wherein displaying program guide information associated with the particular menu choice comprises displaying, in response to receiving a user selection of the menu choice corresponding to the day to view display mode, a plurality of selectable day options each corresponding to a unique day for which program schedule information is available, wherein program schedule information corresponding to a particular day option is displayed in response to the particular day option being selected.

9. (New) The method of claim 2 wherein displaying an interactive program guide menu comprising a plurality of menu choices comprises displaying an interactive program guide menu comprising a menu choice corresponding to a favorite channel display mode.

10. (New) The method of claim 9 wherein displaying program guide information associated with the particular menu choice comprises displaying, in response to receiving a user

selection of the menu choice corresponding to the favorite channel display mode, an interactive program guide interface from which the user can select a favorite channel line-up.

11. (New) The method of claim 2 wherein the first display comprises video for a given television program and wherein displaying an interactive program guide menu comprises displaying the interactive program guide menu simultaneously with at least a substantial portion of the video for the given television program.

12. (New) The method of claim 2 wherein the first display comprises an interactive program guide display and wherein displaying an interactive program guide menu comprises displaying the interactive program guide menu simultaneously with at least a substantial portion of the interactive program guide display.

13. (New) The method of claim 2 further comprising:
defining at a remote location operational parameters indicating default menu choices for the interactive program guide menu; and
transmitting the operational parameters to user equipment;
wherein displaying the interactive program

guide menu comprises displaying the interactive program guide menu comprising the default menu choices.

14. (New) The method of claim 2 further comprising displaying, in response to receiving from the user through the remote control a user selection to view additional menu choices, new menu choices in the interactive program guide menu in place of the displayed menu choices.

15. (New) An interactive program guide system that allows a user to access interactive program guide features on a television monitor on which appears a first display, the system comprising:

a user input device; and

control circuitry configured to:

display, in response to receiving a menu input from the user through the user input device, an interactive program guide menu simultaneously with at least a substantial portion of the first display, wherein the interactive program guide menu comprises a plurality of menu choices corresponding to a plurality of display modes of the interactive program guide; and

display, in response to receiving through the user input device a user selection of a particular menu choice from the plurality of menu choices, program guide

information that is associated with the particular menu choice.

16. (New) The system of claim 15 wherein the plurality of menu choices comprises a menu choice corresponding to a program listings display mode.

17. (New) The system of claim 16 wherein the menu choice corresponding to the program listings display mode is the particular menu choice selected by the user and wherein the displayed program guide information comprises a plurality of interactive program listings.

18. (New) The system of claim 15 wherein the plurality of menu choices comprises a menu choice corresponding to a program search display mode.

19. (New) The system of claim 18 wherein the menu choice corresponding to the program search display mode is the particular menu choice selected by the user and wherein the displayed program guide information comprises an interface from which the user can initiate a restrictive search of a database of program schedule data.

20. (New) The system of claim 15 wherein the plurality of menu choices comprises a menu choice corresponding to a day to view display mode.

21. (New) The system of claim 20 wherein the menu choice corresponding to the program search display mode is the particular menu choice selected by the user and wherein the displayed program guide information comprises a plurality of selectable day options each corresponding to a unique day for which program schedule information is available, wherein program schedule information corresponding to a particular day option is displayed in response to the particular day option being selected.

22. (New) The system of claim 15 wherein the plurality of menu choices comprises a menu choice corresponding to a favorite channel display mode.

23. (New) The system of claim 22 wherein the menu choice corresponding to the favorite channel display mode is the particular menu choice selected by the user and wherein the displayed program guide information comprises an interactive program guide interface from which the user can select a favorite channel line-up.

24. (New) The system of claim 15 wherein the first display comprises video for a given television program and wherein the interactive program guide menu is displayed simultaneously with at least a substantial portion of the video for the given television program.

25. (New) The system of claim 15 wherein the first display comprises an interactive program guide display and wherein the interactive program guide menu is displayed simultaneously with at least a substantial portion of the interactive program guide display.

26. (New) The system of claim 15 further comprising a remote facility configured to:

define operational parameters indicating default menu choices for the interactive program guide menu; and

transmit the operational parameters to the control circuitry;

wherein the interactive program guide menu displayed in response to receiving the menu input from the user comprises the default menu choices.

27. (New) The system of claim 15 wherein the control circuitry is further configured to display, in response to receiving from the user through the user input device a user selection to view additional menu choices, new menu choices in the interactive program guide menu in place of the displayed menu choices.

28. (New) An interactive program guide system that allows a user to access interactive program guide features on

a television monitor on which appears a first display, the system comprising:

means for receiving a menu input from the user;

means for displaying, in response to the menu input, an interactive program guide menu simultaneously with at least a substantial portion of the first display, wherein the interactive program guide menu comprises a plurality of menu choices corresponding to a plurality of display modes of the interactive program guide; and

means for displaying, in response to means for receiving user selections receiving a user selection of a particular menu choice from the plurality of menu choices, program guide information that is associated with the particular menu choice.

29. (New) The system of claim 28 wherein the means for displaying an interactive program guide menu comprising a plurality of menu choices comprises means for displaying an interactive program guide menu comprising a menu choice corresponding to a program listings display mode.

30. (New) The system of claim 29 wherein the means for displaying program guide information associated with the particular menu choice comprises means for displaying a

plurality of interactive program listings in response to the means for receiving user selections receiving a user selection of the menu choice corresponding to the program listings display mode.

31. (New) The system of claim 28 wherein the means for displaying an interactive program guide menu comprising a plurality of menu choices comprises means for displaying an interactive program guide menu comprising a menu choice corresponding to a program search display mode.

32. (New) The system of claim 31 wherein the means for displaying program guide information associated with the particular menu choice comprises means for displaying, in response to the means for receiving user selections receiving a user selection of the menu choice corresponding to the program search display mode, an interactive program guide interface from which the user can initiate a restrictive search of a database of program schedule data.

33. (New) The system of claim 28 wherein the means for displaying an interactive program guide menu comprising a plurality of menu choices comprises means for displaying an interactive program guide menu comprising a menu choice corresponding to a day to view display mode.

34. (New) The system of claim 33 wherein the means for displaying program guide information associated with the particular menu choice comprises means for displaying, in response to the means for receiving user selections receiving a user selection of the menu choice corresponding to the day to view display mode, a plurality of selectable day options each corresponding to a unique day for which program schedule information is available, wherein program schedule information corresponding to a particular day option is displayed in response to the particular day option being selected.

35. (New) The system of claim 28 wherein the means for displaying an interactive program guide menu comprising a plurality of menu choices comprises means for displaying an interactive program guide menu comprising a menu choice corresponding to a favorite channel display mode.

36. (New) The system of claim 35 wherein the means for displaying program guide information associated with the particular menu choice comprises means for displaying, in response to the means for receiving user selections receiving a user selection of the menu choice corresponding to the favorite channel display mode, an interactive program guide

interface from which the user can select a favorite channel line-up.

37. (New) The system of claim 28 wherein the first display comprises video for a given television program and wherein the means for displaying an interactive program guide menu comprises means for displaying the interactive program guide menu simultaneously with at least a substantial portion of the video for the given television program.

38. (New) The system of claim 28 wherein the first display comprises an interactive program guide display and wherein the means for displaying an interactive program guide menu comprises means for displaying the interactive program guide menu simultaneously with at least a substantial portion of the interactive program guide display.

39. (New) The system of claim 28 further comprising:

means for defining at a remote location operational parameters indicating default menu choices for the interactive program guide menu; and

means for transmitting the operational parameters to user equipment;

wherein the means for displaying the interactive program guide menu comprises means for displaying

the interactive program guide menu comprising the default menu choices.

40. (New) The system of claim 28 further comprising means for displaying, in response to the means for receiving user selections receiving a user selection to view additional menu choices, new menu choices in the interactive program guide menu in place of the displayed menu choices.

41. (New) A machine-readable medium for an interactive program guide system that allows a user to access interactive program guide features on a television monitor on which appears a first display, the machine-readable medium having machine program logic recorded thereon for:

receiving a menu input from the user through a remote control;

displaying, in response to the menu input, an interactive program guide menu simultaneously with at least a substantial portion of the first display, wherein the interactive program guide menu comprises a plurality of menu choices corresponding to a plurality of display modes of the interactive program guide; and

displaying, in response to receiving through the remote control a user selection of a particular menu choice from the plurality of menu choices, program guide

information that is associated with the particular menu choice.

42. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 41 wherein displaying an interactive program guide menu comprising a plurality of menu choices comprises displaying an interactive program guide menu comprising a menu choice corresponding to a program listings display mode.

43. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 42 wherein displaying program guide information associated with the particular menu choice comprises displaying a plurality of interactive program listings in response to receiving a user selection of the menu choice corresponding to the program listings display mode.

44. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 41 wherein displaying an interactive program guide menu comprising a plurality of menu choices comprises displaying an interactive program guide menu comprising a menu choice corresponding to a program search display mode.

45. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 44 wherein displaying program guide information associated with the particular menu choice comprises displaying, in response to receiving a user selection of the menu choice corresponding to the program search display mode, an

interactive program guide interface from which the user can initiate a restrictive search of a database of program schedule data.

46. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 41 wherein displaying an interactive program guide menu comprising a plurality of menu choices comprises displaying an interactive program guide menu comprising a menu choice corresponding to a day to view display mode.

47. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 46 wherein displaying program guide information associated with the particular menu choice comprises displaying, in response to receiving a user selection of the menu choice corresponding to the day to view display mode, a plurality of selectable day options each corresponding to a unique day for which program schedule information is available, wherein program schedule information corresponding to a particular day option is displayed in response to the particular day option being selected.

48. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 41 wherein displaying an interactive program guide menu comprising a plurality of menu choices comprises displaying an interactive program guide menu comprising a menu choice corresponding to a favorite channel display mode.

49. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 48 wherein displaying program guide information associated with the particular menu choice comprises displaying, in response to receiving a user selection of the menu choice corresponding to the favorite channel display mode, an interactive program guide interface from which the user can select a favorite channel line-up.

50. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 41 wherein the first display comprises video for a given television program and wherein displaying an interactive program guide menu comprises displaying the interactive program guide menu simultaneously with at least a substantial portion of the video for the given television program.

51. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 41 wherein the first display comprises an interactive program guide display and wherein displaying an interactive program guide menu comprises displaying the interactive program guide menu simultaneously with at least a substantial portion of the interactive program guide display.

52. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 41 further comprising machine program logic recorded thereon for:

defining at a remote location operational

parameters indicating default menu choices for the
interactive program guide menu; and

transmitting the operational parameters to
user equipment;

wherein displaying the interactive program
guide menu comprises displaying the interactive program guide
menu comprising the default menu choices.

53. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 41
further comprising machine program logic recorded thereon for
displaying, in response to receiving from the user through
the remote control a user selection to view additional menu
choices, new menu choices in the interactive program guide
menu in place of the displayed menu choices.